Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:6-8
As parishioners, we are Committed to Christ all year, but just as the liturgical seasons help us see things anew, we as the communities of St. Eugene and St. Monica take six weeks of the year to focus on the **fundamentals of our faith** that help us to grow closer to Jesus and become more mature disciples. This time of reflection helps us as individuals and as a parish community to get a better sense of God’s direction and vision for us.

Discipleship is a journey that needs a destination, guidance, and encouragement. The six traits outlined in the Committed to Christ ministry—**Prayer, Mass Attendance, Formation, Financial Giving, Service and Evangelization**—serve as our guide. Use each of these weeks to reflect on where you are starting from and where you can go from here.

Make a commitment to follow along at the Masses and establish a plan to engage in parish life, and check back in throughout the year.

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**PRAYER**

Prayer is our way of **communicating** with God—where we praise Him for who He is, ask for what we or others need, say we are sorry for times where we have failed, or offer thanksgiving for the gifts God has given us. The ways we pray can take many different forms. The important thing is that we are keeping the communication lines open, always reaching out to God, who always hears us.

**MASS ATTENDANCE**

Mass is our public act of worship, where we come together as a community to participate in the highest form of prayer. The Mass is divided into two main parts—the Liturgy of the Word, where we hear the voice of the Lord through the Bible, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, where **we receive the body, blood, soul, and divinity** of our Lord, Jesus Christ under the appearance of mere bread and wine.

**FORMATION**

Formation is the process of learning and continuing to **grow in holiness** and virtue as we mature and have new life experiences. God is infinite, so we can never learn everything there is to know about Him. He gave us what we need for salvation in the Church, so we need to continue to fill in the gaps in our knowledge and **form our consciences** in order to make moral decisions in our daily lives.

**FINANCIAL GIVING**

While we do not share everything in common like the early Christians, we do share of the gifts God has given us with our financial giving. When we give, it makes a **tangible difference** in our parish and our community. People come to the Church for assistance with both their physical and spiritual needs, so everything we give helps support the greater mission of the Church. We can also give of our time and talents!

**SERVICE**

While some of us may be called to great acts of service that may take us across oceans, many of us are called to small acts that may go virtually unnoticed by our families, friends, and community. We all have different gifts and responsibilities, but we are all **called to serve out of love**, just as Jesus demonstrated to His disciples at the Last Supper.

**EVANGELIZATION**

To put it simply, evangelization is **sharing your experience of Jesus** with others. People who have never read a Bible or been in a church may see a glimpse of God’s love through the actions of others. Every person has a longing for God in his/her heart, but if that desire is never recognized, people will try to find fulfillment in other things.
In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus watched the wealthy making their offerings into the treasury but he noticed the poor widow as she put in her two small coins. Jesus pointed out this widow to say that she put in more than the rest, ‘the others have made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood.’ (Luke 21)

Most of us believe that giving is good. We’ve heard it said that “it’s better to give than to receive.” When we do this, we experience the truth of this counterintuitive statement. However, even in spite of this, we often forget this in our day to day lives - or, it’s just hard for us to live out.

Maybe we are trying to be prudent; to ensure that we and our family are provided for - which is of course important and good. Maybe we have a natural scarcity mentality that makes it hard to give. Or maybe our society’s hyper-focus on consumerism makes it all too easy to focus on things we think we need. Whatever it is, giving can be hard, even though we know it is good.

While the church doesn’t require tithing, it does require us to give something (CCC 1260,1262). Most of us are happy to give something to the church. We know the importance of the church in our earthly life, and (more importantly) our eternal life. But, do we give at a level that reflects the importance of the church?

Jesus was not impressed with the amount of money the widow gave, but with the level of sacrifice that she gave. Do we give in a way that Jesus would consider sacrificial? If our giving is not intentional and well planned, maybe it isn’t sacrificial. If we cannot figure out what in our life we are doing without because of our giving, then maybe our giving is not sacrificial. While we must provide for our needs, we should notice our giving. When we give in a meaningful way to God, we also give him our trust and let go of some control to God, which in turn helps us to grow in faith.

Only you and God can know the right amount to give. Pray and meditate on this scripture passage, ask “am I giving sacrificially, following God’s will in my life?” Then, please fill out your financial commitment card and return it to the church. The best part is, once you have followed through with your commitment, you will experience the truth of the saying “it’s better to give than to receive” and grow in your faith and trust towards God.

Questions for Reflection/Discussion:
Do I make it a priority to give financially to the Church?
Do I give back to the Church with my time or talents?
Are there some areas where I could make sacrifices in order to be more generous?
**Parish Office Help**—Assist with answering phones and doors, preparing/assembling parish mailings, other tasks as needed. Training is provided and amount of time is set by you! Contact Kate or Brenda(SE) at 918-1102 or Desiree(SM) at 332-1576.

**Offertory Counters**—Assist with processing the weekend collection at either parish. Training is provided and can take up to 3 hours. Contact Anne Rice at arice@stme.church or 918-1105.

**Sunday Hospitality(SE)**—Help serve refreshments after Sunday Masses in the SE Narthex. Contact Kate Myers at 918-1102.

**Parish Hospitality**—Help at special parish events with food prep, service, decorating, set-up/take-down, and everything else that comes with hosting a parish event. Contact Anne Rice at arice@stme.church or 918-1105.

**Visual Arts**—We are always in need of photographers and videographers to help capture memories from our ministries and parish events. Contact Anne Rice at arice@stme.church or 918-1105.

**Gardeners for God**—Maintain the beautiful flower gardens at our parishes. Contact Nancy Janik(SE) at 352-2308 or Linda McGuire(SM) at mcguirdj@hotmail.com.

**Parish Picnic/Feast Day**—Help with set-up and take-down, cooking/grilling, decorating, serving food, running activities for the day long event. Typically, St. Eugene’s Picnic is the Sunday closest to June 2nd, and St. Monica’s Feast Day is the Sunday closest to August 27th. Please contact Eileen Placek(SE) at eileenplacek@wi.rr.com or Kelly Balthasar(SM) at kellybalthasar@yahoo.com.

**Parish Babysitting**—Babysit young children while their mothers attend Compass or other parish events. Must have a background check and Safeguarding session completed before volunteering. Contact Meaghan Turner at mturner@stme.church or 964-8780 ext 124.

**Catechist/Aide**—Teach or assist with Sunday School Classes/Family Sundays for our Child Ministry Program. Must have a background check and Safeguarding session completed before volunteering. Contact Jeanette Lambrecht at jlambrecht@stme.church or 964-8780 ext 126.

For questions about volunteering in other ways or for different ministries, get in touch with the right person!

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### 3 Easy Ways to Give

#### ONLINE

1) To give to St. Eugene go to [https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/steugene](https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/steugene)

2) Choose “Sign In” then click “Register Now” to create an account.

3) Enter your information and click “Register” when you have finished, which will take you to the giving page.

4) Choose the fund and amount to which you would like to give, click “Make this gift recurring” then click Submit” to complete the process!

#### TEXT

To give to St. Eugene, text your giving amount (ex: $10) to (414) 509-0009, then submit your one time registration.

To give to St. Monica, text your giving amount (ex: $10) to (414) 269-3777, then submit your one time registration.

#### MOBILE APP

1) Visit the app store and download “ConnectNow Giving.”

2) Search by zip code (53217) or by name for St. Eugene or St. Monica.

3) Login or create an account.